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**Official PPP & Joint Political Party Statements**

**Joint Press Release by Guyana Political Parties  
March 19, 2020**

The political parties signed hereto, welcome the call for a recount of Guyana's General and Regional Elections held on March 2, 2020 to allow for a declaration by GECOM in keeping with The Representation of the People Act Chapter 1:03 and Election Laws (Amendment) Act 2000.

The urgent need for a recount arises from unlawful and/or illegal actions, highlighted by the actions and declarations from the returning officer of Region 4, Mr. Clairmont Mingo, which also constituted breaches of relevant legislation and extant Orders of the Chief Justice.

Chairperson of GECOM, Justice (Ret'd) Claudette Singh on March 14, 2020 committed to having recounts done for March 2, 2020 General and Regional Elections.

The global community, including CARICOM; Organization of American States; European Union; Commonwealth Secretariat; Carter Center, and their representatives: such as Caricom Chairperson and Prime Minister of Barbados, Mia Mottley, and other Caribbean Prime Ministers; US Ambassador Sarah-Ann Lynch; EU Ambassador Fernando Ponz Cantó; UK High Commissioner Greg Quinn, and Canadian High Commissioner Lillian Chatterjee and several reputable Guyanese have spoken out in favour of a recount and/or the need for a democratic transition.

In view of the foregoing, it is of paramount importance that the security of the containers containing the voting ballots be preserved.

This is best achieved by all containers being stored at a central location and to permit party scrutineers to be on site and guard against any tampering with the ballot boxes.

At the time of writing of this press release, the Container with Region 6 Ballots and the Container with the Region 4 East Coast Ballots are not stored at the Arthur Chung Convention Centre in Liliendaal, where all the other containers for the other regions and sub-regions are stored. We urgently request that this irregularity be corrected immediately.

The political parties signed hereto have jointly or individually applied as respondents to the interim ex parte application granted by the Honourable Justice Franklin Holder, which is set for hearing at 9:00 AM on Friday, March 20, 2020, at the High Court of Guyana.

We feel strongly that the injunction is without merit as it seeks to undermine the clear statement made by the Chairperson of GECOM to have a recount of the votes, and the joint agreement signed by President David Granger and Opposition Leader, Mr. Bharrat Jagdeo.

The parties take note of the important threats of sanctions from the international community in general and the ABCE countries in particular, which can include personal sanctions against all those who participated in the process to undermine democracy by acting outside of the rule of law.

We call on all Guyana to understand that the political parties outside of APNU-AFC are working for a peaceful and legal resolution to this situation and we remain committed to respecting the results emanating from the recount and for democratic norms to prevail.

We strongly support the statement from the US Department of State which emphasized that the people of Guyana deserve a credible election and transfer of power that reflects the will of the people in accordance with the laws of Guyana.

We call on the Guyana Police Force to act professionally to de-escalate ongoing tensions arising from the election process and to perform their duties in the best interest of all Guyanese.

The parties call on all citizens of Guyana to remain calm and peaceful as these matters continue to engage the attention of the Courts, and as we continue to work with the local and international community to ensure the recounting of the votes cast at Guyana's General and Regional Elections held on March 2, 2020.

<https://www.facebook.com/PrimeNewsGuyana/posts/joint-press-release-by-political-partiesmarch-19-2020-georgetown-the-political-p/2285106088459267/>

***What other are saying about the election:***

### **Official Statements**

#### **UK Foreign Secretary Statement on Guyana March 24, 2020**

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said:

The transition of government in Guyana should only take place in line with transparent and democratic principles that lead to credible results.

Any government sworn in on the basis of non-credible results will face strong international condemnation. If the situation continues to deteriorate, this international response will include a range of serious consequences for those concerned.

The UK remains ready, along with its partners, to assist in ensuring a credible process that provides the democratic outcome that the Guyanese people deserve.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-statement-on-guyana-24-march-2020>



**Statement by the EU Election Observation Mission**

**March 20, 2020**

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic it has been decided to repatriate the European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) back to Europe.

The EU EOM calls on all stakeholders to complete the electoral process in a credible and transparent way in accordance with legal requirements.

<https://twitter.com/FJPonzCanto/status/1241141893540589569/photo/1>

**U.S. Department of State: Re-election of Organization of American States Secretary General Luis Almagro**

**March 20, 2020**

I congratulate Luis Almagro on his re-election as Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS). Under his principled leadership, which the member-states have now renewed, the United States will continue to work with our partners at the OAS to promote and defend democracy, human rights, security, and economic prosperity for the people of the Americas.

Today's vote by OAS Member States shows that even in the most challenging of times, such as what we are facing with the COVID-19 pandemic, our Hemisphere of Freedom remains steadfast in safeguarding our shared values.

As we overcome the threat to public health posed by COVID-19, the peoples of the Americas and the Caribbean face other challenges, such as the full restoration of democracy in Nicaragua and Venezuela; adherence to free, fair and credible electoral processes in Guyana; and holding the Cuban regime accountable for its malign activities. Opportunities abound as well, including the upcoming democratic elections in Bolivia and implementing an array of OAS programs and initiatives to boost resilience; strengthen democratic governance, human rights, and fundamental freedoms; and bolster economic competitiveness and development in the region.

With Secretary General Almagro continuing at the helm, I am confident about the future of the OAS and the Americas.

<https://www.state.gov/re-election-of-organization-of-american-states-secretary-general-luis-almagro/>

**Statement from the Commonwealth Observer Group to Guyana**

**March 18, 2020**

It is the clear and considered view of the Group that the tabulation processes conducted by the Returning Officer for Region 4, Mr Clairmont Mingo, were not credible, transparent and inclusive.

The series of events that the Group observed in the tabulation of Region 4 results between 3-14 March are of grave concern. Specific issues include:

- The repeated cessation of the tabulation process for a variety of irregular reasons.
- The Group did not observe any material or substantive impediments inside the tabulation room, which might have prevented the resumption of the tabulation process. It is the Group's clear view that robust

exchanges between political party agents in the room only occurred when the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) repeatedly halted the tabulation process.

- The unlawful declaration made by Mr Mingo on 5 March at about 2pm, despite the tabulation process being halted.
- The unlawful 5 March declaration of Mr Mingo was undertaken under heavy police guard; and his departure from the tabulation centre was guided and guarded by six police officers.
- The continued failure of the Returning Officer, Mr Mingo, to comply with the 11 and 13 March orders and judgements of the Acting Chief Justice. On 13 March, The Chief Justice made it patently clear that actual statements of poll should be shown to entitled parties present. For the avoidance of doubt, the Acting Chief Justice demonstrated herself how this should be done and enquired “*what was the difficulty in doing so*” during the contempt of court proceedings.
- However, on resuming the tabulation after leaving the Court on 13 March, Mr Mingo refused all requests from those entitled to be present to view the actual statements of poll and did not display the spreadsheet being populated. This compromised the process of ascertaining the credibility of the statements of poll relied on by Mr Mingo to tabulate the results; and, it was impossible for party agents and those entitled to be present to observe that the numbers being called out were being accurately entered on the spreadsheet.
- In some cases, the tabulation totals announced by Mr Mingo on 13 March reflected more voters than were entered on the list of eligible electors for certain polling stations.
- At no point did the leadership of the Guyana Elections Commission halt or rectify these blatant instances of disregard for the rule of law and electoral ethics, despite its vested authority to independently ensure credible elections.

Despite the serious and persistent electoral malpractice observed by the Group from 3-14 March, the Group welcomed the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) initiative, at the invitation of President David Granger, to deploy a High-Level Team to Guyana, to supervise a recount of the ballots. The Group notes with regret that the Team has now departed Guyana having been unable to complete their task.

The Commonwealth Observer Group commends the people of Guyana for peacefully exercising their right to vote for the Government of their choice on 2 March. This is a sacred constitutional and universal right. This right of the Guyanese people is respected when every vote is transparently and credibly counted.

<https://thecommonwealth.org/media/news/18-march-statement-commonwealth-observer-group-guyana>

**U.S. Department of State: Secretary Michael R. Pompeo’s Remarks to the Press  
March 17, 2020**

A quick note from South America and then I’ll take some questions:

The United States is closely monitoring the tabulation of votes in Guyana, which took – the election took place back on March 2nd. We join the OAS, the Commonwealth, EU, CARICOM, and other democratic partners in calling for an accurate count. We commend CARICOM’s role in seeking a swift, democratic resolution, and it’s important to note that the individuals who seek to benefit from electoral fraud and form illegitimate governments, regimes will be subject to a variety of serious consequences from the United States.

<https://www.state.gov/secretary-michael-r-pompeo-remarks-to-the-press-6/>



**Press Articles**

**Bloomberg: A Country's Future as World's Fastest-Growing Economy Dims**  
**March 24, 2020**

<https://business.financialpost.com/pmn/business-pmn/a-countrys-future-as-worlds-fastest-growing-economy-crumbles>

**Stabroek News: US Secretary of State Cites Guyana's Electoral Process as OAS Challenge**  
**March 21, 2020**

<https://www.stabroeknews.com/2020/03/21/news/guyana/us-secretary-of-state-cites-guyanas-electoral-process-as-oas-challenge/>

**Stabroek News: Caribbean's Roman Catholic Bishops Urge Swift Completion of Polling Results Verification**  
**March 21, 2020**

<https://www.stabroeknews.com/2020/03/21/news/guyana/caribbeans-roman-catholic-bishops-urge-swift-completion-of-polling-results-verification/>

**Stabroek News: India Says Vital that Guyana's Electoral Processes 'Credible and Fair'**  
**March 20, 2020**

<https://www.stabroeknews.com/2020/03/20/news/guyana/india-says-vital-that-guyanas-electoral-processes-credible-and-fair/>

**Stabroek News: Rudy Insanally Urges President Granger to Abide by Promise for Vote Recount**  
**March 20, 2020**

<https://www.stabroeknews.com/2020/03/20/news/guyana/rudy-insanally-urges-president-granger-to-abide-by-promise-for-vote-recount/>

**The Economist: Guyana's Dodgy Poll Is All About Oil**  
**March 19, 2020**

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2020/03/19/guyanas-dodgy-poll-is-all-about-oil>

**The New York Times: A Small Country, an Oil Giant and Their Shared Fortune**  
**March 18, 2020**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/18/world/americas/guyana-oil-exxon-elections.html>

**The Associated Press: Guyana Court Bars Recount of Disputed Election Amid Oil Boom**  
**March 18, 2020**

<https://apnews.com/e4a4a78b9a06747eaff4883496f27caa>

**Official Tweets**

**NSC** @WHNSC · 20h

The U.S. is committed to the Americas becoming the 1st fully free hemisphere. We stand with the people of [#Guyana](#) who want to protect the integrity of their democracy, maintain peace, & preserve regional stability while we collectively confront [#COVID2019](#).



Secretary Michael R. Pompeo Remarks to the Press - United States Depa...  
 SECRETARY POMPEO: Good afternoon, everyone. As you all know, the Trump administration continues to put an enormous amount of energy ...  
[state.gov](#)

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**Michael G. Kozak**   
 @WHAAstSecty

GECOM has the responsibility to ensure that all votes in [#Guyana](#) are counted.

Any announced result that does not reflect a credible vote count and the will of the Guyanese people will damage the Guyanese government's standing in the international community.

2:37 PM · Mar 20, 2020 · [Twitter Web App](#)

76 Retweets 141 Likes

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**Lilian Chatterjee**  
@LilianCGAC

Canada is proud to support the Carter Center's Election Observation Mission in Guyana. I echo their hope that the will of all Guyanese people will be respected. It is not too late. [@CarterCenter](#) [@stabroeknews](#) [@GYChronicle](#) [@GYTimes](#) [@newsroomgy](#) [@knewsonline](#) [@demwaves](#) [@iNewsGuyana](#)



**Carter Center Guyana Election Observation Mission** @CarterGuy... · Mar 20

Carter Center departs Guyana; remains committed to democracy and constitutional reform. [bit.ly/3dkCAA6](https://bit.ly/3dkCAA6)

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